

An Analysis of Challenges and Solutions Facing Fraternity and Sorority Advising Programs

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Abstract

Fraternity and sorority advising programs (FSAP) provide support to Greek letter organizations and serve as a liaison between the organization's leadership and the institution. Four main challenges facing FSAP professionals today are autonomy, facilitating a culture of diversity, scrutiny and member behavior (Whipple, 1998). Specific solutions for each of these challenges recommended to FSAP staff are rooted in fostering self-authorship in members that is necessary to change campus culture.

History of Organizations and FSAP

1776 – First fraternity, Phi Beta Kappa, was founded
1875 – First sorority, Kappa Alpha Theta, was founded
1906 – First Black fraternity, Alpha Phi Alpha, was founded
1908 – First Black sorority, Alpha Kappa Alpha, was founded
1909 – National Interfraternity Council was formed
1950s & 1960s – Institutions began to offer services/offices dedicated to advising Greek organizations (Torbenson, 2009)



Challenges to Professionals

Autonomy of local chapters and national organizations.

Facilitating culture of diversity in Greek organizations.

Combating the “climate of scrutiny” (Fussell, 2000).

Addressing the culture of unethical behavior.

Suggested Solutions

Forge strong, intentional relationships with chapter advisors and their national organization leadership and representatives (Whipple, 1998).

Provide and encourage cross-cultural opportunities or standards for Greek members (Martin, Parker, Pascarella, & Blechschmidt, 2015).

Attract senior student affairs officers to the idea of “engineer[ing] positive and developmental change” in chapters (Whipple, 1998).

Educational efforts focused on members aligning the values of their Greek organization with the values of the institution (Whipple, 1998).

References

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